

Reinvesting in the Lives of Traumatized and Aggressive Nigeria Children and Youths to Reduce the Preponderance of Criminality and Insecurity

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The study examined the traumatic experiences of Nigeria children and youths, it investigated the various ways in which these children are susceptible to trauma and the consequences of these traumatic experiences on inclination to criminality among Nigerians. The study also examined adolescents' inclination to aggression across cultures. The researcher employed discipline research design. Based on the discovery it was recommended that Nigeria government should have a data bank of all people currently facing trauma that resulted from violence. This could enable them to cater for the traumatized Nigerians. Also, all issues precipitating, bullying, aggression and trauma should be attended to. The study could be of benefit to parents, adolescent, caregivers, guidance counsellors, law enforcement agents, curriculum planners, religious leaders, prospective researchers and victims of violence and aggression. They could learn, educate, protect and assist victims of trauma, bullying and violence as this could reduce the trend of insecurity pervading Nigerians.

Keywords: Reinvesting, Trauma, Aggression, Bullying Crime, Insecurity.

INTRODUCTION

The wave of crime in Nigeria remains alarming and disheartening, it is rather unfortunate that despite the tenacity of government to reduce the wave of crime, the rate of crime still remains tenacious, it is pathetic that a lot of Nigerians faces a lot of trauma due to some unforeseen circumstances, particularly in the regions where crimes remain unabated, there have been various agitations in various regions. Agitations by Boko haram, Niger delta, Ibos to mention but few in the processes of these agitations a lot of lives were

gruesomely lost due to unforeseen circumstances. In most cases people were maimed and a lot of lives were lost, when such lives were lost it appears to be unacknowledged. There were situations where the lives of loved ones were lost to these gruesome killings.

It is pathetic that particularly in most of the insurgent zones in Nigeria, there are situations where parents were murdered in the presence of their children; children and siblings were murdered in the

presence of their loved ones. Most of these unwarranted killings were done with the usage of lethal weapons such as guns, bombs, grenades and so on. It is worrisome that after these gruesome killings, victims were left to their faiths. In most cases most of the victims of these occurrences are either neglected or taken to the Internally Displaced Camps (IDC). In such situations most of the victims are not either adequately attended to or subjected to debilitating conditions without any form of specialised assistance. The reports on sophisticated media about the terrible experiences of traumatised Nigeria could account for most of the unabated crimes ravaging Nigeria in most cases these people, Nigerians appears to lack specialised care givers that ought to give them hospice care and services. It is rather unfortunate that Nigeria remains one of the few nations in the world that has inadequate or lack the data or records of people facing trauma, this is because most of the victims of insurgents, war and gruesome murders appear to be disenfranchised. This could be accountable for unabated crimes in Nigeria, because if people are traumatised, aggrieved and disenfranchised they appear to bottle up their emotions and when emotions are emitted, they seem to be emitted in negative ways. Most of these emotions are released in forms of crime when trauma remains unresolved. Most of the pervasive crimes that ought to be resolved remain unresolved. Instead of Nigerians to nip the bud of crime, it is either we fail to acknowledge it due to our carelessness or ineptitude.

It is also rather unfortunate that Nigeria fails to know and understand that one of those things that are learnt is crime. Most of the children that are brought up in insurgent or hot zones are learning crimes, if crime is learnt, it seems to be very difficult to unlearn and children mimic most of the things like crime they see in their immediate environment, when most of these children are exposed to these terrible occurrences they tend to learn and experiment what they observe. It is pathetic that a lot of these children and youths whose parents, siblings or loved ones are gruesomely murdered at their instances and presence appear to be hardened and appear to find it very difficult to relinquish crime related behaviours. A child whose loved ones like parents and siblings were murdered, displaced dismembered and render homeless in their presence if unattended appears to develop as criminals. This is because if their social, emotional, psychological and existence needs are unmet and unacknowledged, they appear fixated and

develops as adult criminals.

It is pathetic and rather unfortunate that Nigeria remains one of the few countries in the world that crimes are committed with impunity and where records of inhabitants facing trauma does not exist. It is disheartening that Nigeria has no data bank or record of people presently facing trauma and in situations when people are suffering and there is no provision for their needs, crimes appear to be geometrically appreciating, this could be accountable for the hydra headed wave of crime ravaging Nigerians.

Worrisomely too, Nigeria is one of the nations that have no records of imports, exports and the rest. This is because there are reports on sophisticated media on daily basis that Nigeria is one of the few nations in the world that has porous borders, people particularly criminals and vagabonds are at the liberty of infiltrating Nigeria anytime, there are reports on daily basis that because of the porous nature of Nigeria borders, Nigeria remains the hide out of criminals in the neighbouring nations. This is because criminals come around Nigeria at their leisure and volitions to commit heinous crimes. This seems to be accountable for unresolved crimes in most insurgent zones of Nigeria. This is because continuously those crimes assailants inflict unwarranted havocs on Nigerians.

Most Nigerians particularly youths are not gainfully employed despite the array of resources endowed Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the nations whose energetic youths are either not employed or unemployable and despite this, the political classes are living exorbitant luxurious lifestyle. There are graduates in Nigeria that remains unemployed for as long as over one decade and most of these unemployable and unemployed graduates will need to answer the call of nature by enjoying the basic necessities of life and do all things employed ones are doing. In their bid to do things most of them are criminally prone. Nigeria's successive government has been turning deaf ears to the issue of employment. Nigeria has all it takes to create jobs and employment for the teeming youths because Nigeria youths are not gainfully employed, they appear to bottle up their emotions and engaged themselves in heinous nefarious activities. In fact, most of these youths are traumatized and when people continue to dwell in trauma and crime it could exacerbate the tenacity to commit crime. This could be accountable for unresolved insecurity in Nigeria. Most of the Nigeria cities harbor these youths and they wish to enjoy most of the legacy in the cities of

Nigeria. These may account for the proclivity for crime in major cities of Nigeria, places like Abuja, Ibadan, Warri, Ado-Ekiti, Benin city to mention but few appears to harbour most of the hardened criminals in Nigeria, and yet Nigeria government did not see the need to create job for these youths and decongest the cities and get the youths engaged. Instead, Nigeria government import lethal weapons to quell or curb crimes which in fact appear to yield no valuable result, because crime remains tendentious.

It is rather unfortunate too that most dubious Nigerians live luxurious lifestyles in the presence of the needy. A lot of dubious and rich Nigerians lifestyles appear to precipitate crimes. A lot of rich Nigerians have successive criminal records known to Nigerians and yet they are strikingly rich and unrepentant despite these awful records. Nigeria is one of the few nations in the world where criminals are celebrated because they know that most dubious Nigerians go unpunished. Most of these impoverished Nigerians appear to live in trauma as they bottle their emotions. These unresolved and bottled emotions seem to be released in forms of crimes. Most of the politicians continue to live extravagant lives in the midst of impoverished and unemployed Nigerians. In their bid to collect their shares from the national cakes, crimes often endure and ensue. In most cases this seems to account for most of the criminality in Nigeria. This is because these unemployed youths are employed as miscreants and machinery in rigging elections and destabilizing the peace people of Nigeria, people that are facing trauma appears to exhibit violent behaviours despite violent behaviours murder in forms of aggression. Aggressive behaviours come in many forms, extreme acts of aggression is called violence. These are proactive and reactive aggression. It is very difficult to delineate proactive form reactive aggression. Anderson and Huesmann (2007) believe that all aggression is fundamentally proactive, serving some needs and still others suggest that proactive and reactive are distinct categories but end points on a continuum. Just as all types of aggression are alike not all groups of people are alike in their attitudes and propensities toward aggression. The United States enjoys recent dramatic decreases in its rates of violent crimes. Its murder rate is one of the highest among politically stable, industrialised nations, far worse than the rates for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and much of Western Europe. Several countries in Eastern

Europe, Africa, Nigeria inclusive, Asia and the Americans have worse rates than the United States. Murder rates tend to be much higher in central and south America, the Caribbean, and southern and middle Africa than in other regions in the world (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2011). A lot of factors appear to contribute to this tendency, such as poverty, drug trafficking, availability of guns, political and social unrest and so on. Countries like Nigeria that has wide disparities in income have murder rates almost four times greater than societies where there is more income distribution.

Another thing that accounts for high rate of violence is individualistic and collectivistic cultures. Individualistic cultures place more emphasis on the values of independence, autonomy and self-reliance, whereas collectivistic cultures place greater emphasis is on values if interdependence cooperation and social harmony. Hypothesised that individualistic cultures which are less concerned with social harmony and the avoidance of open conflict most likely to have a relatively high rate of aggression. A more recent study involving is countries found that countries high in individualism were associated with greater Frequency of school of violence (Menzer and Torrey-Purta, 2012).

The forms violence takes and peoples attitude towards various kinds of aggression differ internationally, the United States is exceptionally high and even when compared to countries with which it shares much culturally such as England and Australia, attitudes about guns tend to be much more permissive and positive in the United States than in the United Kingdom (Slack, 2009). Researchers believe that the higher murder rate in the United States is due to the prevalence of guns. According to one report, the firearm homicide rate was about 20 times higher in the United States than in other high-income countries for 15 to 24 years olds. The rate was almost 43 times higher (Richardson and Hemenway, 2011). The violence in the United States also tends to involve individuals rather than groups of people. In Nigeria, the government seems not be accountable for virtually arms and lethal weapons infiltrating Nigeria. This could account for prevalence of murder and killings pervading Nigeria.

BULLYING

One form of aggression that is prevalent across virtually all cultures is bullying (Volk et al., 2012).

Children and adolescent around the world are (physically, sexually or emotionally) bullied by other peers, bullying involves intentional harm (physically or psychologically), repetition (the victim is targeted a number of times), and a power imbalance (the bully abuses or her power over the victim). The reported prevalence of bullying varies widely across research studies, with estimates on the low and suggesting that 5% or 10% of school children are involved in bullying and estimates on the high end suggesting numbers as high as 20 to 90% (Oliveus, 2004; Due and Holstein, 2008; Santalahti et al., 2008; Borntrager et al., 2009; Flemming and Jacobsen, 2010; Pigby and Smith, 2011). Peplar et al., (2004) set up hidden video cameras and microphones to get an unfiltered peek into aggression in school-yards in Canada, they saw bullying in midsized schools at a rate of 4.5 episodes per hour.

GENDER AND AGGRESSION

Despite all the variation across cultures, one thing is universal: men are more violent than women. This has been found in virtually all cultures studied around the world, 90% of murderers in the United States in 2010 were male and 77% of murder victims were female. Despite the significant variation in total violence from one country to another, the gender difference remains remarkably stable over time and place. Men commit the very large majority of homicides and constitute large majority of murder victims (United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime, 2011; Buss, 2012). Men were the perpetrators of school shootings. On the other hand, around the world the vast majority of people killed by an intimate partner, such as a family member or current or former romantic partner are women.

RESEARCH RATIONALE

The wave of crime in Nigeria appears to be dreaded and remains tendentious. A lot of lives are lost on daily bases in virtually all the states of Nigeria to arson, theft, homicide, insurgency and ritual killings. Some of these killings are reported on daily basis in sophisticated media seems to be worrisome. Nigerians are killed with guns, grenades, bombs and other lethal weapons and despite various weapons of sanitation to stem the tide it remains tendentious and unabated. Most of the victims of these gruesome

killings are traumatised and it seems that their grievances are not acknowledged. The unabated crime in Nigeria could be due to the refusal of successive Nigeria government to acknowledge the grief of victims and the loved ones left behind. It appears that most of the crimes committed in Nigeria had its inclination from unchecked aggressive behaviours and bullying. All these unwarranted behaviours seem to have result to consistent wave of insecurity permeating and pervading all regions in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the aforementioned, the following recommendations were made:

1. Nigeria government should have the record of Nigerians presently facing trauma
2. Urgent steps must be taken to take care of the traumatised Nigerians.
3. Trauma and control should be incorporated to the curriculum of various levels of education in Nigeria and to be taught to school children.
4. Situations that precipitate negative behaviour such as aggression and bullying must be reduced.
5. Nigeria care givers such as Guidance Counsellors and hospice givers should be equipped to meet the challenges of aggressive Nigerians and those that are traumatised.

Significance of the Study

The study could be of benefit to school children, adolescents, school teachers, school administrators, curriculum planners, law enforcement agents, Guidance Counsellors, hospice providers, religious organisations, parents, and victims of violence. They could learn and could be used to resolve all issues of violence and trauma in Nigeria.

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